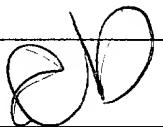


Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/700,839	HAMMER ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sandra M. Nolan	1772	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the letter dated 01 July 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-16.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Claims 1-3 and 5-16 are allowed. Claim 4 has been cancelled.
3. The base claims of the application are claims 1 and 16. They can be summarized as follows:

Claim 1 covers a film made from a thermoplastic mixture that comprises a microdisperse distribution of: a) a thermoplastic starch (derivative) or a combination of starch and starch derivative, and b) a polyester urethane, with the weight ratio of a:b being from 75:25 to 5:95, wherein the area-based drawing ration of the film is 2 to 70 and the urethane contains alternating hard and soft segments.

Claim 16 covers a film made from a thermoplastic mixture that comprises a microdisperse distribution of: a) a thermoplastic starch (derivative) or a combination of starch and starch derivative, and b) a polyester urethane, with the weight ratio of a:b being from 75:25 to 5:95, wherein the area-based drawing ration of the film is 2 to 70.

4. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest films having all of the features of claims 1 and 16.
5. The examiner finds applicants' arguments, as recited on pages 5-7 of their 01 July 2004 response, and especially the arguments concerning microdispersion in the first full paragraph on page 6 thereof, persuasive. Accordingly, the 35 USC 103 rejection of claims 1-16 over DD 247830A in view of Lorcks (US 6,096,809) is withdrawn in view of those arguments.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sandra M. Nolan, whose telephone number is 571/272-1495. She can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, her supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at 571/272-1498.

The fax number for patent application documents is 703/872-9306.

S. M. Nolan
S. M. Nolan
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1700

SMN/smn
09700839(20040713)

SANDRA M. NOLAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER